

Chairmen Duff, Chairwoman Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor, honorable members:

We are writing this letter in support of the reconfirmation of Steven K. Reviczky as the Commissioner of Agriculture for the state of Connecticut.

As full time farmers here in CT, we have never had a better working relationship with the Dept. of Ag than we have had under Commissioner Reviczky. He has done more to make farming an honest and profitable industry in CT in the last four years than we have witnessed in the last 25 years.

In the past, we have never had a voice. The only communications we had with the DoAG were with very unfriendly and unprofessional people before Steve. He has changed all of that. His staff goes out of their way to listen to all of our concerns and make sure that the right thing gets done. That point must be stressed. He makes sure that the right things get done to benefit all involved.

The future of agricultural in CT has never looked brighter. Our farm has tremendously expanded its vegetable production in the last couple of years, due mostly to the fact that Commissioner Reviczky has listened to what the farmers in our state need from our government agency. Because of new support from the DoAG we are in the process of planning and building a new washing and packing facility and also considering building a commercial kitchen, where we can process our excess produce into value-added products for our farm stand and other outlets. We are also planning on building a meat processing room where we can cut and package our own beef and pork for retail sales. All this new growth on our farm alone will create at least a few new jobs; but all the new growth on all the other farms in the state will create a whole bunch of new jobs. Which is why we are also very excited about the new agriculture classes taking place in the community colleges that Commissioner Reviczky and his staff have coordinated with the Board of Regents of Higher Education and the Agri-science High Schools in the state. After all we will need an educated workforce for all the new agriculture endeavors you will see in this state in the next couple of years.

The ability to change with the times is something that any business needs to be successful and Commissioner Reviczky has been crucial to the business of agriculture here in CT.

Thank you for giving us the chance to show our support and we hope you keep him as Commissioner of Agriculture for the state of CT for the next four years. We look forward to continue working with him.

Fred and Stacia Monahan

Stone Gardens Farm

Shelton, CT